

THIRTIETH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTION

OF THE
Mercantile Library Association,
CLINTON HALL, NEW-YORK.

JANUARY, 1851.

NEW-YORK :
BAKER, GODWIN & CO., PRINTERS,
TRIBUNE BUILDINGS.
1851.

Officers of the Association for 1850.

President,
THOMAS J. BAYAUD.

Vice-President,
HENRY R. BARKER.

Corresponding,
GEORGE PECKHAM.

Secretaries,

Recording,
CHARLES W. OGDEN.

Treasurer,
THEODORE STOUT.

Directors,

SAMUEL P. TITUS,	HUGH N. CAMP,
GEORGE C. COLBURN,	R. A. BACHIA,
FLETCHER PLACE,	JOHN MERCHANT,
CHARLES O. RICHARDSON.	

Librarian,
S. HASTINGS GRANT.

Assistant Librarian,
VICTOR LOHSE.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Thirtieth Annual Meeting of the Mercantile Library Association was held at Clinton Hall, on Tuesday evening, 14th January, 1851.

The meeting was called to order by the President, on whose motion MR. CHARLES KING was invited to the Chair.

MR. KING, on taking the chair, thanked the members for the honor they had conferred upon him, and congratulated them upon the rapid growth and present prosperity of the Institution.

The Minutes of the last Annual Meeting were read, and on motion, adopted.

The Report of the Treasurer of the Association was then read, and ordered on file.

The President read the Annual Report, which, on motion of MR. H. A. OAKLEY, was received, and ordered to be printed.

A letter was then read by the President, from MR. CHARLES ROLFE, in relation to MR. SWINSON, the former Janitor of the Association, who left New-York in October, 1849, and has not since been heard from. His wife and two children being comparatively destitute of the means of subsistence, he submitted for the consideration of the meeting, the following resolution:—

Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed to solicit aid for the widow and children of E. SWINSON, late keeper of the rooms of the Mercantile Library Association:—which was adopted unanimously.

The Chairman appointed as such Committee, MR. CHARLES ROLFE, Chairman, MESSRS. ISAAC H. BAILEY, ROSWELL E. LOCKWOOD, T. SPENCER KIRBY, and CHARLES E. MILNOR.

Reports were then read from the Committee of Conference, relative to enlarged accommodations; and Committee of Mem-

bers appointed by the Board of Direction, "to examine into the state of the books and property of the Association," which were read, and ordered on file.

The Report of the Examining Committee gave a very satisfactory account of the condition in which they found the property of the Association.

The following amendments to the Constitution, which had been laid before the Board at the proper time, were then discussed :—

Resolved, That Art. 11th, Chap. 2d, of the Constitution, be stricken out, and in lieu thereof the following be inserted :—
"All nominations for office must be made at least one week previous to the annual meeting."

Resolved, That Art. 11th, Chap. 2d, of the Constitution, be stricken out.

The above amendments were both lost.

Mr. J. W. GREATON offered the following resolution :—

Resolved, That the Board of Direction be requested to have read, with the Annual Report, the names of all members who have had books out, or are in arrears for dues over six months.

After considerable discussion upon amendments to lengthen the period, and also upon the propriety of the resolution itself, it was adopted as presented.

On motion of Mr. HENRY R. BARKER, it was

Resolved, That we sincerely regret that circumstances prevented PHILIP HONE, Esq., who has so kindly presided over our annual meetings for many years, from honoring us with his presence this evening.

Mr. J. W. GREATON moved, that the thanks of this meeting be tendered to Mr. CHARLES KING, for his kindness, and for the able manner in which he has presided over this meeting. Adopted unanimously.

Mr. KINGSLAND offered the following :—

Resolved, That the Board of Direction be requested to inquire into the expediency of closing the Library, with the exception of the reading room, every evening, at 8 o'clock, excepting Saturday evening. The resolution was lost.

Mr. YOUNG then moved, That the Board of Direction be directed to remove the wire screens, recently put up in front of

the shelves in the reading room ; and also be directed to suspend all further action in the matter of new screens.

On motion of Mr. GREATON, the above resolution was laid on the table.

Mr. ISAAC H. BAILEY offered the following :—

Resolved, That our thanks are eminently due to our retiring President, and his colleagues, for their judicious administration of the affairs of the Association during the past year.

Mr. E. T. TOURNIER then also moved, that the thanks of the members are due, and are hereby tendered to Mr. THEODORE STOUT, Treasurer, for the very satisfactory manner in which he has conducted the monetary affairs of our Institution during the past two years.

Both the above motions were unanimously adopted.

The Chairman, Mr. KING, in reply to the resolution of thanks, alluded to the fact that a portion of his early years had been passed in the pursuits of commerce, and also spoke of the deep interest felt by him in all that related to commercial affairs. He congratulated the Association upon its present prosperous condition, and the beneficial influences it does, and will yet exercise in the formation of the present and future races of merchants.

Prof. C. S. HENRY, of the University of New-York, was then introduced to the meeting by the Chairman. In his address, which, on account of the lateness of the hour, was necessarily short, he alluded to the commanding position held by the Merchants of New-York, in the commerce of the world, and to the effect which recent discoveries would have upon that position. He also expressed his gratification on learning the progress of the Association, and predicted for it a much larger sphere of usefulness than that to which it had yet attained.

Addresses were also made by Ex-Presidents I. H. BAILEY, and CHARLES E. MILNOR.

Mr. JOHN LLOYD, of the Board of Trustees, was present by invitation.

On motion, adjourned.

C. W. OGDEN,
Rec. Secretary.

DR.

THEODORE STOUT, *Treasurer*, in account with the MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

CR.

To Balance in the Treasury, Jan. 1, 1850, . .	\$1116 00	By Cash paid for Books,	\$2091 10
" Amount Received for Initiation Fees, . .	6360 00	" New Catalogue,	1597 39
" " Quarterly Dues,	270 01	" Periodicals,	517 53
" " Fines,	1 50	" Binding,	286 72
" " Old Catalogue,	67 00	" Printing,	266 00
" " New "	4 02	" Advertising,	199 35
" " Scrip rec'd from Mutual Ins. Co. . .		" Salaries,	1708 06
" " 3 mos. Interest on a special deposit		" Sundry Incidental Expenses, . .	50 64
" " made in Sav'gs Bk. for Mer. Clks. . .	4 50	" Light,	408 76
" " Received from Excelsior Lodge for		" Insurance,	250 00
" " proportion of Hall Light. &c. . . .	20 00	" Stationery, incl'g 3 new Lg's . .	154 96
" " Interest on amount of Demilt Be-		" Fixt. Lib. and Rd'g Room, . .	161 44
" " quest, to Dec. 31,	13 50		
Total Receipts,		Total Expenditures,	\$7691 95
		Balance 31st Dec., 1850,	322 60
			<u>\$8014 55</u>

In addition to the above, the Treasurer reports as on Deposit in the Merchants' Exchange Bank, (until invested) Three Thousand Dollars, being the amount of the Demilt Bequest.

There is also due the Class Committee, on deposit in North River Bank,	\$128 99
" " " " in Savings' Bank for Mer. Clerks,	189 61
" " " " Interest on do. do. to Dec. 31st,	214 55
Total due Class Committee,	<u>\$343 54</u>

NEW-YORK, December 31st, 1850.

THEODORE STOUT, *Treasurer*.

ANNUAL REPORT.



FELLOW-MEMBERS :

IN obedience to the provisions of the Constitution, and time-honored custom, the Board of Direction have called you together for the purpose of presenting to you a statement of the present condition of our Association, and an account of its doings during the year just closed.

Since the foundation of our Library, *thirty years*, the lifetime of a generation, have passed away. The mind unconsciously reverts to those few, energetic, public-spirited individuals, to whom it is indebted for its very existence, and through whose zeal and self-devotion, consequently, we enjoy the high privileges that membership with it confers. We can readily imagine *their* doubts and misgivings in attempting to execute the project they had formed of founding a Library, to be commenced, supported and carried forward, without capital, by persons of small means, as are Clerks, as a body. We can also imagine *them* buoyed up by a vague hope of the public approbation and support, when, despite of the fears of friends and doubts of enemies, they deposited the few volumes they had gathered—the nucleus of our present collection—in the room in Fulton-street; and thence went forth to invite their fellow-clerks to the intellectual feast provided for them. We know that their labors must have been unceasing, and at times disheartening. But to fully realize all the obstacles they encountered and overcame is impossible. The First Annual Reports of the Institution, although they describe many of the difficulties that surrounded its early career, cannot tell us the whole story of the zeal, energy and unceasing activity of its founders. Men who thus labor for the public good, are not wont to parade their trials before those whom they have endeavored to serve. The Officers of the Association, in succeeding years, when the task of administration has been comparatively

easy, may form, perhaps, a somewhat adequate conception of the vast amount of labor, the unceasing industry, the never-wavering zeal required to found and carry forward through the first years of its existence the Institution, whose thirtieth anniversary we have met to celebrate.

But these men, the fathers of our Library, have sown where we now reap, since few, alas very few, are here to behold the noble superstructure that, in the lapse of thirty years, has been reared upon the foundation they laid. Let us then, fellow-members, show our appreciation of their zeal and self-devotion, by ourselves using and urging others to use, but never abusing, the rich legacy they have left to us. It is the only payment we can make, the only proof of gratitude we can give.

Before proceeding to lay before you the present condition of the Association, it may be well, in order more clearly to understand its position relative to former years, to recur for a few moments to its past history.

On reference to the Tabular Statement, accompanying the last Annual Report, it will be observed, that after the first five years of the existence of this Institution, when, what had until then been experiment, became a fact, its progress was steady and rapid until the year 1840. Each Annual Statement showed a decided improvement on its predecessor, as regarded additions to the number of volumes, the increase of members, and amount of income. This progress was a matter of surprise, since it continued in despite of all adverse circumstances. The able President of the Board of 1837, in his Annual Report, congratulated the members, that notwithstanding the great commercial depression from which the whole community was then suffering, and which had overwhelmed some of the patrons and warmest friends of the Association, it had not been obstructed nor endangered in its career of usefulness. To use his language: "Our register of members has received constant accessions, our finances have prospered, enabling us to provide liberally for the intellectual wants of the Association, and thus one green spot has been left in the midst of the general desolation."

Although commercial affairs continued depressed during several years, and finally the Association felt the effects, it

nevertheless continued to advance until the year 1840, as before mentioned. The income of 1839, from annual dues, initiation fees and fines, reached nearly \$8000, and with the amount received from Lecture Committee of the previous Board, and from sale of Catalogues, exceeded \$9000. From this time, however, the resources of the Institution began to diminish. Its members, many of whom had been obliged either to alter their pursuits or seek elsewhere the means of livelihood, withdrew in large numbers. Nor were their places supplied as in former years, by accessions from the large body of clerks. The additions to our stock of books, consequently, sadly decreased, and the whole Institution, that till then had experienced no reverses, began to languish. This unhappy state of affairs, aggravated by the effects of indiscreet measures of some previous Boards, continued during *five* years—five long years to the many friends of the Library.

At length, to the great joy of these friends, the Annual Report in January, 1846, informed them that “the tide had at last turned!” The Board of the year 1845, had the gratifying intelligence to give their fellow-members, that during their administration the finances had begun to recover, and that with prudence and energy on the part of their successors, a well-grounded hope might be entertained of the speedy restoration of our affairs to their former happy position. In this they were not deceived. The improvement continued, and again each Annual Report announced a decided progress during the year, and bright prospects for the future. The income of 1839, however, has never been exceeded, and that year has consequently become the standard, with which, at least in the matters of revenue and membership, all subsequent, as well as former years have been compared.

It will not be supposed, by any, at all events, who are familiar with our affairs, that this revival of our prosperity is the work of chance, or even of outward causes alone. On the contrary, much is due to the wisdom of those who originated the present system of management, and who displayed equal ability in carrying into execution the measures they had planned. This system may be thus briefly described. A prudent care over the expenditures; an active system of proselyt-

ism by means of advertisements and other modes of attracting public attention; an anxious endeavor to satisfy the wants of members, as well in the purchase of the books they may require, and such as conduce to their intellectual improvement, as in securing to them, as far as practicable, at all times, full opportunity of obtaining them at the desk when called for: in fine, an earnest effort to make new members, and by increasing the literary resources and advantages of the Institution, retain them when they have joined.

The present Board of Direction neither claim to have originated this system of management, nor any new plan of operations by which the Institution has been largely benefited. Experience having shown the efficacy of the system adopted long before we entered upon the duties of our office, our efforts have mainly tended to keep the Association steadily in the prosperous career it was pursuing. We indulged in no rash experiments, nor rejected knowingly any means or appliances likely to be conducive to its welfare, because they were new.

We have the gratifying intelligence to give you, that the progress and usefulness of the Association are daily advancing. Its numerous body of members continue to manifest the utmost interest in its welfare. Its volumes, as ever, circulating among them, contribute to the instruction and gratification of thousands. The Reading Room, particularly in the hours not devoted to business purposes, is crowded. The attendance at the course of lectures has been unusually large. The advantages offered by our classes have been more generally appreciated than heretofore. Our subscription list has increased beyond all former example. Our finances are in a sound condition, and our growth has been healthy and vigorous. This will appear, we trust, from the detailed statement we now proceed to lay before you. Impressed with a sense of the evils resulting from over estimates, in some former years, it has been our effort, as it was our duty, to prepare it with the utmost regard to precision.

M E M B E R S .

In no department have the results of the present system of management been more satisfactory, than in this highly im-

portant one. Having no claims, as already stated, to have originated that system, we the more readily speak of it as it deserves. To increase our list of members, surely nothing could be more efficacious, than to spread before our fellow clerks, in every possible manner, the advantages to be derived from a connection with our Association; and to satisfy, with all its resources, the reasonable wants of those who were already members. Guided by the example of their predecessors, your Board of Direction have, to the best of their humble ability, endeavored to perform this part of their duty. The result, as shown in the present number of our members, is satisfactory.

There have joined during the past year, at	\$2	1050
“ “ “ “ “ at	5	66

Making the whole No. of new members in 1850,	1,116
--	-------

This is a larger number than ever before joined the Association in a single year.

There have withdrawn in 1850, . . .	238
-------------------------------------	-----

The number of accounts closed in conformity with the Constitution is, . . .	508	746
---	-----	-----

Showing a net gain of,	370
----------------------------------	-----

Adding to the above the number reported in the beginning of the year,	2974
---	------

The whole number of the members on the 1st of January, is found to be,	3,344
--	-------

Of the above, 3,225 pay \$2 per year, and are entitled to all the privileges of the Association, and 119 pay \$5, being debarred only the right to vote and hold office.

The Honorary members, Life members, and Stockholders of Clinton Hall Association, have not changed during the year. There are 405 in all.

A majority of the 238 members, who had their accounts regularly closed according to the Constitution, either have left the city or had some valid reason for withdrawing. The others, who assigned no reason, or a frivolous one, having faithfully

fulfilled their contract with the Association, are entitled to commendation for the honorable manner in which they have acted, however much we may differ from them as to the propriety of their determination.

You have seen that 508 accounts have been closed in conformity with the Constitution. When it is borne in mind, that our immediate predecessors had thoroughly sifted the subscription list of all delinquents, the largeness of this number should not only create surprise, but lead to some action on our part to arrest the growing evil. Of the above accounts, nearly one-half have been closed because the parties absolutely refused to pay, although pains were taken to impress upon them the positive nature of the obligation they assumed on becoming members, and the validity of the debt they had incurred. It is, of course, useless to prosecute these claims; and we can only regret that in a body like ours, which ought to represent the honor and integrity, as well as the intelligence of the clerks of New-York, so large a number of persons is found, who are ignorant or careless of their first duties as men—particularly as mercantile men. There is consolation, however, in knowing that the Association is benefited by their withdrawal.

Undoubtedly, one prominent cause of the connection of such members with our Association, is in the efforts made at some of our annual elections to induce persons to join, without reference to the genuine advantages it offers, and to serve mere temporary ends. The evils resulting from such measures, were plainly apparent in 1840. The election of January 15, 1849, affords still another example. The day previous, there were added to the Association 114 persons; of whom but 48, or about 4-10, have regularly paid their dues till this time; many of those whose accounts have been closed, professing ignorance of ever having been members. In the year 1840, the ledgers were cleared up and all worthless accounts closed. It appeared, afterwards, that of all the members who had joined the Institution during the first *twenty years*, 3-10 had remained attached to it, although then its resources were far inferior to those it now possesses. This comparison must clearly show that membership, obtained for purposes which, we believe, led a large portion of the 114 persons

above mentioned to seek it, is of doubtful advantage to the Institution, and of no value to the parties themselves.

We have also to report to you, 139 suspended accounts, which form part of the 3,344, stated as the number of members on the first of January. No trace could be obtained of these persons, from whom a pretty large amount might be collected, if their places of business were known. It has been suggested, and we recommend the plan to our successors, to have prepared, quarterly, lists of the names of all persons in arrears who cannot be found, with a request attached, that they or their friends would insert their residences. If these lists were placed in some conspicuous position in the Library, material assistance might thus be given to those who have your affairs in charge. We have been induced to treat this subject somewhat at length, being firmly convinced, that while no legitimate means should be neglected, of extending the advantages of our Association to the whole body of our fellow clerks, and inducing them to reap the benefits it confers; that on the other hand, any undue influence used to add to our subscription list, or hot-bed system of growth, has been shown to be injurious to its permanent prosperity. A mere selfish competition and rivalry, without regard to the best interests of the institution, are as dangerous, as a healthy excitement and emulation are profitable.

TREASURY.

By the report of your Treasurer, which has been read to you, it is seen, that the total receipts for initiation fees, dues and fines are,

	\$7,746 01
From other sources,	110 52

Total income of the year,	\$7,856 53
The expenditures were,	7,691 95

Balance of receipts over outlay,	\$164 58
Adding to which, the amount received from previous Board,	158 02

The balance on the 1st of January, to be transferred to our successors, is	\$322 60
---	----------

The amount arising from initiation fees, dues and fines, exceeds that from the same sources in 1849, by \$586 83; and falls short of 1839, \$93 39. In this comparison, no mention is made of profits from lectures, proceeds of sales of catalogues, or other extraordinary resources. These are precarious in their results, nor do they indicate to any extent, the real growth of the Association. They were, therefore, excluded.

The expenditures of the year exceed those of 1849, by \$532 80. They may be divided into two classes. The first comprises the sums invested in books, periodicals, &c. The second, consists of outlays for salaries and other expenses. The expenditures of the first class, in which is included the cost of the new Catalogue, amounting to \$4,492 94, will be incidentally considered under the heads to which they relate. The expenditures of the second class, amounting to \$3,199 21; nearly half our entire income, require particular consideration.

Salaries.—This largest item of our expenses is greater by \$312 36 than in 1849. No larger force exists in the Library now than during the latter part of that year. It has been deemed proper, in accordance with custom in like cases and the practice of our predecessors, to increase the compensation of those officers who have faithfully served you. Equal talent and efficiency cannot, we think, be obtained for a less sum than now paid. At different periods, when our income was smaller, a larger amount has been expended in this department.

Light.—This heavy item of expenditure, in which there is an apparent decrease from 1849 of \$50 96, arising in the payment in that year of the bill of the month of December preceding, has oftentimes been discussed in the Annual Reports. At one time, an attempt was made to substitute lamps for gas, which proved unsuccessful. Though we may regret to see so large a portion of our revenue annually diverted from the purchase of books, the evil seems without remedy. Your Board have endeavored, by proper economy in the use of light, to reduce as much as possible this very necessary expenditure.

Advertising.—The decrease from 1849 of \$64 65 in this item, arose not from any doubt on the part of your officers as to its expediency and positive usefulness. The advertisements of the lectures, continued during a quarter of the year, rendered

the usual notices of the Library unnecessary. In this manner a larger sum, although not from the funds of the Association, has been disbursed for this object.

Printing and Stationery.—The increase in these items, of \$169 64, may be accounted for by the purchase of three large and elegant legers, and the printing of the late Annual Report, of which the annual meeting before which it was read ordered an unusual number of copies. The other expenditures of this class vary little from those for the same objects in 1849.

Although a large proportion of the receipts of the Library are in uncurrent funds, we have been enabled, through the kindness of Messrs. MORFORD & VERMILYE, exchange brokers, to avoid any loss to the Institution, by discount or depreciation of these funds. These gentlemen have repeatedly, with a view to aid the Association, given large amounts of current for uncurrent money to the Treasurer.

Your revenues have been carefully husbanded, while we have endeavored to supply all the reasonable wants of members. The usual care was taken to call in all bills due by the Association. We believe that we are correct in stating, that all debts incurred previous to the 1st of January, 1851, are paid and included in the Report of your Treasurer.

LIBRARY.

Most of our fellow-members need not be told, that on account of the cost of the new Catalogue, the additions to our volumes have been less than usual.

We had on the 1st of January, 1849, according to			
the former basis of calculation,	.	.	31,674 vols.
There have been added by purchase during the			
year, .	.	.	1,695
By donation,	.	.	170 1,865 “
Total at the beginning of 1850,			33,539 “

It was well known, however, that a large reduction from the above number would have to be made, whenever our books

should be counted. During the summer vacation, extraordinary efforts having been previously made to obtain all outstanding volumes, required at that time for the preparation of the Catalogue, the favorable moment we thought had arrived to ascertain the exact number. Accordingly, all the books at that time on the shelves were counted, and found to be, 29,174

There were also charged on the ledgers to members of the Association, 908 volumes; of which 460 have been subsequently returned, 460

There have been purchased since the re-opening in September, 599

Thus the whole number of volumes in possession of the Association, on the 1st of January, 1851, is 30,233

The loss, therefore, by wear and non-return of books since the last enumeration in 1843, is 3,306 volumes, mostly works of an ephemeral character.

There yet remain in the hands of persons who are or were members, 448 volumes. It might be necessary to use argument to convince these persons, who are also in arrears for dues, that they are bound by every honorable consideration to pay these arrears. But, surely, no argument can be necessary to prove to them, that in retaining books, property not theirs, they are guilty of theft. Experience has, with us, however, fully shown, that those who commit the lesser, will seldom hesitate at the greater crime.

The purchases of the year have been thus classified:—

Works in Science and Art,	248
General Literature,	1135
Fiction,	482
	<hr/>
	1865

They consist of—

Folios,	42
Quartos,	125
Octavos,	824
Duodecimos,	874

The number of volumes added during the year being small, your Board has been enabled to exercise more discrimination in their selection. Early in the year the sale at public auction of several large libraries gave us a favorable opportunity to purchase. Many very valuable additions have been made in this manner at a moderate outlay. Among them are works we can scarcely expect to be able to meet with under the same circumstances again, such as several valuable editions (English quarto) of voyages and travels.

As indicative of the rarity of some of them we state that the following :—

Parry's Voyages, in 3 vols.
 Franklin's " 1 vol.
 Hooker's Flora Boreali Americana, 1 vol.
 Fauna Boreali Americana, 3 vols.

were loaned to Mr. Henry Grinnell for the use of the Arctic Expedition, fitted out by him for the search of the missing navigators in the North Seas. The fact that these works could not be procured by Mr. Grinnell from any of the usual sources, and his offer to procure other copies from Europe if it were required, induced the Board to depart from their usual custom.

Your attention is invited to the following list of the most valuable additions of the year. We believe that they will favorably compare with those made by our predecessors :—

Galerie du Musée Napoléon, 11 vols. 4to.	
Flaxman's Illustrations of Homer's Iliad,	} 4 vols. folio.
" " " Odyssey,	
" " " Hesiod,	
" " " Æschylus,	

Spence's Polymetis, folio.

Dallaway on Sculpture and Statuary.

Samuel Ireland's Illustrations of Hogarth, 2 vols. 4to.

John Ireland's Illustrations of Hogarth, 3 vols. 8vo.

Burnet's Practical Hints on Portrait Painting, 4to.

Bromley's History of the Fine Arts, 2 vols. 4to.

Pugin's Examples of Gothic Architecture, 3 vols. 4to.

Pugin's Specimens of Gothic Architecture, 2 vols. 4to.

Lamb's Studies of Ancient Domestic Architecture, folio.

Moller's Denkmaler der Deutschen Baukunst, 2 vols. folio.

- Walter & Smith's 200 Designs for Cottages, 4 vols. 4to.
 Instrumenta Ecclesiastica, 4to.
 Sharpe's Decorated Windows, 2 vols. 8vo.
 Humphrey's Ancient Coins and Medals, 4to.
 Bloomfield's Annotations of New Testament, 8 vols. 8vo.
 Hengstenberg's Christology, 3 vols. 8vo.
 Boyd's History of Literature, vols. 1-3, 8vo.
 Revue des Romans, 2 vols. 8vo.
 Wolff, Hausschatz Deutscher Prosa, 4 vols. 4to.
 " Poetischer Hausschatz des Deutschen Volkes.
 Byron's Works, Murray's Edition, 17 vols.
 Washington's Farewell Address, 4to.
 Crabbe's Universal Hist. Dictionary, 2 vols. 4to.
 Carpmael's Law of Patents.
 Gilbert on Banking, new edition, 2 vols.
 Digest of the Laws of the United States, 9 vols. 8vo.
 Montefiore's Commercial Dictionary, 4to.
 Bayle, Dictionnaire Historique et Critique, 16 vols. 8vo.
 Playfair's Chronology, folio.
 Jackson's Chronological Antiquities, 3 vols. 4to.
 Howell's History of the World, 3 vols. folio.
 Vertot's Knights of Malta, 2 vols. folio.
 Bayley's History of the Tower of London, 2 vols. 4to.
 Murphy's Mahometan Empire, 4to.
 Maurice's History of Hindostan, 2 vols. 4to.
 " Ruins of Babylon, 2 vols. 4to.
 Maleclm's History of Persia, 2 vols. 4to.
 Johnston's Universal Gazetteer, 8vo.
 Guibert, Dictionnaire Géographique, 8vo.
 Burekhardt's Nubia, 4to.
 " Bedouins.
 MacFarlane's Turkey and its Destiny.
 Ali Bey's Travels in Morocco.
 Beechey's North Coast of Africa, 4to.
 Beaver's African Memoranda, 4to.
 Buckingham's Arabs, 4to.
 Back's Voyages to the North Seas, 4to.
 Beechey's " " "
 Franklin's " " "
 Parry's " " "
 Ross's " " "
 Also the Travels of,
 Le Bruyn; Light; Ouseley; Mollien; Percival; Kinnier; Pennant;
 Waring; Morier; Marsden; Fraser; Flinders; Dodwell; Bright;
 Pallas; all in 4to.

In no department of our Institution are care and judgment more requisite in your officers, than in this. Much of its present and future usefulness depends upon the manner in which the additions are made. At different periods in the growth of the Library, various modifications were adopted in the system of purchasing. The time has arrived, we believe, for a decided change in that system. When it is borne in mind, that we are building up a Library for the future as well as for the present, we ought to endeavor so to make our additions, as to render it in time complete in all its parts. In the first place, it will be necessary to devote our attention to a single department of literature, or we will expend our resources in futile attempts. We earnestly recommend this matter to the consideration of our successors in office, and congratulate them upon the valuable assistance they will have in our Librarian, Mr. GRANT, whose sound judgment, nice discrimination and good taste, we have had frequent opportunities of testing during our year.

The donations have been unusually large. Our thanks are especially due to MESSRS. R. CARTER & BROTHERS, and Mr. HENRY ONDERDONK, Jr. The first named gentlemen presented to the Association a large part of their publications : 61 volumes. To Mr. ONDERDONK, we are indebted for many works he either presented, or procured for us.

Our acknowledgments, which have been duly tendered in your name, are also due for valuable donations of books, periodicals, pamphlets, &c., to the following named gentlemen and institutions :

B O O K S .

Smithsonian Institute,	Alex. Vattermare,
N. Y. Anti Slavery Society,	Am. Peace Society,
Boston Merc. Lib. Association,	James Lenox,
Messrs. Appleton & Co.,	Geo. P. Putnam,
Thos. W. Haynes,	Fowler & Wells,
Geo. Pratt,	C. B. Richards,
W. Erving,	Geo. T. Trimble,
L. De Boynert,	F. L. Hoffman,
E. Walker & Sons,	John G. Everitt,
Sam'l B. Smith,	R. Maury,
Rob't Dinwiddie,	H. Gessner,
C. C. Marsh,	J. M. Falconer,
C. Francis Adams,	Mr. Kettlewell.
Thomas S. Swain,	

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

Hon. Wm. H. Seward,
 " Jas. Brooks,
 " De Witt Lawrence,
 E. B. Corwin,
 Mr. Hart. (of Hartville.)
 John D. Graham,

Hon. J. Phillips Phoenix,
 " Hamilton Fish,
 Rob't E. Hornor,
 Mr. Parsons,
 W. H. Bogart,
 State of New-York.

PAMPHLETS.

American Institute,
 E. Thomaston, (Me.) Athen. Lib.,
 Charles King,
 Prof. C. B. Adams,
 J. C. G. Kennedy,
 J. W. Underhill,
 Jas. A. Burtus,
 H. W. Smith,
 John Gebhard, Jr.,
 John Fowler, Jr.,

Common Council of Boston,
 Hon. E. G. Squier,
 William Adams, D. D.,
 Gideon Nye, Jr.,
 T. F. Smith,
 Thomas S. Swain,
 Wm. Turner, M. D.,
 J. Hooper,
 Stephen Reed,
 Richard S. Storrs, Jr.

PERIODICALS.

John Livingston,—U. S. Law Magazine.
 Tompkins & Henry,—U. Service Journal.
 The Herald for 1848 and 9,—Contributor unknown.

ENGRAVINGS.

L. A. Shannon—Eight.

Am. Art Union—One.

Am. Art Union—Set Outline Drawings,

Publisher Chn. Par. Mag.—One.

In the course of the year, the Hon. LUTHER BRADISH presented to the Association, on behalf of Mr. JAMES LENOX, then absent in Europe, a copy of the original of WASHINGTON'S Farewell Address, as it came from the hands of its illustrious author. It was one of a very small number of copies, which he had printed for gratuitous distribution. The thanks of the Association were tendered to Mr. LENOX, by the proper officer of the Board.

In the Librarian's department, but two changes have been made during the year. Mr. CHAS. WEEKS, the 2d Assistant, having resigned, his place was filled by CHAS. SMITH, who after a few months also vacated the post. Mr. LOUIS PISE, was then chosen to fill it. By attention to his duties and ability in performing them, he has fully verified the correctness of the testimonials he presented with his application.

To the ability and assiduity of Mr. S. HASTINGS GRANT, our

Librarian, we shall have occasion to refer hereafter, in treating of the Catalogue compiled by him. It may be sufficient to say in this place, that the encomiums bestowed upon him in the late annual report, are as fully due to him for his zeal and fidelity during the last year.

Upon Mr. VICTOR LOHSE, the first Assistant, by the withdrawal of the Librarian at frequent intervals, most onerous duties have devolved. We take great pleasure in bearing testimony to his attention to those duties, his assiduity and zeal for the interests of the Association, and acquaintance and capability for the post he so worthily fills.

We also bear witness to the attention to his duties, and his earnest desire and ability to perform them, on the part of our Junior Librarian, HENRY DAWES SMITH.

You are referred to the report of the Committee, created by direction of the Constitution, for all information as regards the present condition of your books and other property. Upon that Committee you have recognized gentlemen whom you have selected in former years to administer your affairs. They are thoroughly competent to the task for which they were chosen by the Board, and the thanks of the Association are due to them for the readiness with which they responded to the call.

The new ledgers may be opened during the present month. The adjustment of the accounts of members at this season, renders it the most favorable time for the purpose.

If any cause could diminish the regret of the Board, for the small number of their purchases during the year, it would be found in the fact, that suitable accommodations no longer exist for our present collection. Our shelves are crowded to repletion. Valuable works are piled away in obscure corners of the Library. All the measures resorted to with a view to meet the emergency, are insufficient. It is earnestly hoped, therefore, that during the present year, some remedy may be found for this daily increasing evil.

The demands of members for new works conveyed through the ordinary channel, have received the usual prompt consideration. Whenever these demands have not been deemed inconsistent with the interests of the Association or the rights of the members, they have been immediately complied with. Mem-

bers are requested to use this mode of testifying their wishes and opinions to their officers more frequently. They will thus lighten their labors and enable them to render the additions to our volumes, more suitable to the tastes and wants of those whom it is their duty to serve.

READING ROOM.

One of the first matters that engaged the attention of your Board, were the improvements deemed requisite in this important part of our Institution. We were met at the outset by the same difficulty that has cramped our efforts in other departments. The rooms were not only already too crowded, but new shelving was needed to relieve the main library below, which would have to be placed in them for want of space elsewhere. A wish had been expressed by several members, for the daily journals of the principal cities of our country. A moment's glance at the narrow limits of the rooms showed the impossibility of finding accommodations for them, if they were obtained. However, such improvements as were practicable have been made. The following periodicals were added during the year.

MONTHLY.—De Bow's Commercial Review, Harper's New Monthly, The International Magazine, The U. S. Law Magazine.

WEEKLY.—Dickens's Household Words, L'Illustration, Fliegende Blätter (German Punch), Illustrierte Zeitung, The United Service Journal.

The following journals have been ordered for the present year, some of which have been already received:—

DAILY.—Journal des Débats, La Presse, Augsburg Allgemeine Zeitung.

WEEKLY.—The Economist, and Grenzboten.

We now receive regularly twelve American and seven Foreign Daily Journals, fifteen American and nine Foreign Weeklies, twenty-nine American and thirty-five Foreign Monthlies, and fourteen American and ten Foreign Quarterlies; making a total of one hundred and thirty-one publications, an increase of twenty-two since 1849.

They may be thus classified, according to country and periods of publication :—

	American.	English.	French.	German.	
Dailies,	12	1	4	2	19
Weeklies,	15	5	1	3	24
Monthlies,	29	25	2	4	60
Semi Monthlies,	2	1	1	—	4
Quarterlies,	14	10	—	—	24
	<hr/> 72	<hr/> 42	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 9	<hr/> 131

Our especial thanks are due to Mr. F. A. ROCKWELL, who liberally supplied us with his newly invented newspaper clasps. They have proved superior in lightness and convenience to any previously used.

A portion of the shelving in the Reading Room has been inclosed with casings of wire network. The remaining shelves will soon undergo the same process. Although convinced that books had been abstracted at different times from the rooms, the Board hesitated to deprive the members of the privilege of taking volumes from the shelves for consultation. The proof having been laid before them that a member of the Association had purloined a volume of a most valuable work, which he subsequently sold, they deemed that they would be faithless to the trusts reposed in them if they allowed the property under their charge to remain any longer in its unprotected state. The individual who had been found guilty of the theft was suspended from the privileges of membership; a mild punishment for so heinous a crime. He was also informed of his right of appeal to you this evening, for a reversal of the sentence.

Our Reading Room should be the first in the city. With a more central and convenient location, we would be able to satisfy the reasonable demands of members for additional newspapers and periodicals. But until some change, enlarging its limits, be made, but little progress can be looked for.

THE CABINET.

The disordered condition of the Cabinet has been, for several years past, a subject of remark. Early in the last summer Mr. R. H. BROWNNE consented, at the solicitation of the Board, to take charge of it. Under his care it has assumed quite another appearance, and attracts much attention. The minerals and shells have been cleaned, labelled, and re-arranged. It contains 1200 specimens, which are under the following heads: Mineralogy, Conchology, Geology, Fossils, and Miscellaneous. We refer you for further details, to the Catalogue prepared by that gentleman, which has been bound with that of the Library. Five hundred extra copies were printed, and will be furnished, without charge, to all institutions and individuals who may apply for them. The thanks of the Association are due to the following named gentlemen, who have contributed largely to our collection during the year:—

C. M. WHEATLEY,
J. H. REDFIELD,
J. C. JAY,
THOS. S. SWAIN,

ROBERT DINWIDDIE,
ORSON KELLOGG,
SAMUEL SLOAN,
AM. ART UNION.

Among them will be found the names of two gentlemen, early friends, and former officers in the Institution, to whom our Cabinet was mainly indebted for its early growth; and who, now that it has once more engaged the attention of the Board, have hastened to resume their position as its warmest patrons.

We are also largely indebted to Mr. BROWNNE, for which we would express our acknowledgments. Peculiarly fitted, by education and knowledge of natural history, for the task he so kindly assumed, he not only has labored assiduously until it was completed, but also has enriched our collection by valuable donations.

We would call upon our members, either at home or abroad, to bear this department of our Institution in mind. They may have frequent opportunities of enhancing its value, without much inconvenience or expense, since, often, what to the vulgar seems valueless, to the naturalist is priceless.

Another case is required to contain the additions lately

made, and others that are promised. Here, again, the difficulty of "want of room" meets us, and we are obliged to postpone the improvement until a more favorable time.

LECTURES.

A highly successful course of Lectures was delivered before the Association, in the early part of the year. They had been arranged by the previous Board, who, in their report, have already given you the particulars of them. The results were, in nearly every point of view, satisfactory. The Lecture Room was crowded, many being obliged to leave, disappointed, who had purchased tickets with the hopes of hearing the Lectures. The Board were strongly urged to choose another hall for the latter part of the course, but feeling the full force of the reasons that urged their predecessors through so many years, to remain in our own building, they deferred all action until their next course should commence. They entertained a vague hope that by that time some new location for the future home of the Institution might be selected.

In the month of March, MRS. FRANCES ANN KEMBLE read before the Association several selected pieces from the poets, to a crowded auditory assembled in our Lecture Hall. It is needless to say to those who are acquainted with the liberality and kindness of heart of this lady, that, in consonance with her uniform practice when reading for a literary or benevolent object, she would receive no compensation from the Board. We embrace this only opportunity we possess to express to her our deep obligations.

A Course of ten Lectures was arranged during the summer, for the present winter. It was the result of weeks of labor upon the part of the committee having the matter in charge.

It consisted as follows:—

- | | | | |
|---------|-----|---------|--|
| Nov. 5, | One | Lecture | by E. P. WHIPPLE, |
| | | | <i>Subject</i> —Character. |
| " 12, | One | " | by Rev. JAMES RYDER, |
| | | | <i>Subject</i> —The Jesuit. |
| " 19, | One | " | by GEO. H. MILES, |
| | | | <i>Subject</i> —The Crisis and the Struggle. |

- Nov. 26, One Lecture by JAS. DWIGHT,
Subject—The Opera.
- Dec. 3, One “ by Rev. JNO. LORD,
Subject—Gustavus Adolphus.
- “ 10, One “ by Rev. JNO. LORD,
Subject—The Suppression of the Je-
 suits, by Clement XIV.
- “ 17, 24, and 31, Three Lectures by GEO. VANDENHOFF,
Subject—Sketch of public and private
 life of R. B. SHERIDAN, with
 readings from his Plays.
- Jan. 7, One Lecture by E. H. CHAPIN,
Subject—The Man of the World.

The First Lecture of the above Course was delivered in our own room. About the time of its delivery, many of the most influential friends of the Library urged upon the Board the propriety of choosing a more central Hall for the delivery of the Course. Our Lecture Room was decried in the public journals as “out of the way, too small, and uncomfortable.” With hesitancy, having always before their eyes the experience of the Board of 1843, we yielded to the loud demands upon us, and arranged for the delivery of the subsequent Lectures at the Broadway Tabernacle.

The results of the removal have, in a pecuniary point of view, been unsatisfactory. Choosing a new hall, it was necessary to disburse a much larger amount than heretofore for printing and advertisements. We have the consolation of knowing however, that if we are unable to hand over to our successors a large balance, as a lecture fund, we have provided for the gratification and instruction of a larger number of our members and their friends than have assembled within the walls of a Lecture Room during the last eight years.

Under our present system, the pecuniary responsibility of the lectures is borne by the individuals composing the Board; they ought not to be expected, besides, to assume the rent of a large hall.

Our successors will, doubtless, be willing to incur all necessary risks in the lectures they may provide for us during the

next winter. But we invite those members who have been clamorous for the removal from our Lecture Hall this year, to be more considerate and less exacting in their demands the next. We believe it safer, and considered from all points of view, more advantageous to the Association, that its lectures be delivered in the building where its Library is deposited and its members congregate.

We have a balance of \$39 24 belonging to this fund, which we shall transfer to our successors.

CLASSES.

The following 11 Classes have been formed during the present season, under the patronage of the Association, comprising 147 members:—

French Language, 3 classes.	-	-	C. L. PARMENTIER, Instructor,	51
Spanish	2	"	JUAN BARCELO.	23
German	1	"	M. ERTHEILER.	11
Elocution	1	"	S. T. RUSSEL,	11
Penmanship,	1	"	A. H. WHEELER,	8
Book-Keeping,	1	"	THOMAS JONES,	11
Phonography,	1	"	T. C. LELAND,	11
Gymnastics,	1	"	C. F. OTTIGNON,	21
				<hr/>
				147

This number exceeds by 48 that in the classes of 1849, and is larger also than in any year previous. Although the result is gratifying; still, if we consider the moderate terms upon which its instruction is furnished, and the fact that the formation of classes also in Italian, Drawing, and Commercial Arithmetic, was attempted, it is surprising that the members in this department do not count by hundreds.

The Treasurer has reported to you in his possession

belonging to this fund,	.	.	.	\$128 99
There are in the Savings Bank to its credit,	.	.	.	214 55
				<hr/>
Total amount of fund,	.	.	.	\$343 54

The net proceeds of the classes of 1850, which are included in the above amount, against which no claims exist, are \$107 73. Out of this fund, the Committee purchased, at a cost of \$98, the iron safe, in which are placed the Books of Minutes and Documents relating to the History of the Association.

This interesting feature of our Institution deserves the care and attention of your officers. Its usefulness might be much further extended, not only without interfering with, but rather aiding other branches of what may be called our system of education.

SCHOLARSHIPS.

The Scholarships in the gift of the Association are held by the following gentlemen :—

Columbia College.—M. H. WELLMAN, in Senior Class. M. R. VINCENT, Freshman.

University.—ROBERT DUMONT, M. H. F. SMITH.

Mr. VINCENT is a nephew of our late Librarian, S. M. RICHARDSON, and was named in place of Mr. F. D. CORNELL, who graduated in July last. Mr. SMITH has the scholarship held by C. G. OVERACRE. The latter gentleman, for reasons stated to the Board in his resignation, and which were satisfactory, withdrew without completing the usual course.

Ample testimonials as regards capacity and fitness, were brought by the gentlemen whom we have appointed. Still we regret that early in the year we had not opened the scholarships in our gift to competition. This suggestion came from the President of Columbia College in a letter to the Clinton Hall Association, but too late for action on our part. We invite the attention of our successors to the subject, and recommend them, if they think favorably of the suggestion, to announce their decision early in the year, in order that those of our members who desire the scholarship vacant in 1851, may prepare for the competition.

CLINTON HALL ASSOCIATION.

We have no satisfactory information to give you concerning the long-desired relief that we had reason to expect ere

this would be accorded to the Association. It is useless to dwell upon the insufficiency of our present accommodations. They are apparent at a cursory glance at our rooms, which are crowded in every part. There is no intention on the part of the Board, to impute to the Trustees a lack of interest in our welfare. While two of our former presidents hold prominent situations in their body, the Association cannot be neglected. Still our present situation calls loudly for immediate relief, and we beg to venture the hope, that before the year shall have closed this relief will be granted. We are firmly convinced that could the Trustees behold daily, as do our members, the inconvenience and loss arising from the want of action on their part, speedy measures would be taken in the premises.

It may be well to state that the Trustees are not decided as to the propriety of leaving our present location, and also as to the possibility of finding one more eligible for our purpose. If they decide, as was proposed, to convert this hall into a library room, however, much we may regret to lose our place of assemblage, in which our anniversaries have been held for the last 20 years, still the loss, however severely felt, will be cheerfully borne, in view of the advantages that sufficient shelf room, and a larger reading room, will confer upon the Institution.

With the exception of this important matter, our intercourse with the Trustees, throughout the year, has been of the most agreeable character. They have taken a deep interest in the progress of the Association, and within the scope of their present means have afforded us all the assistance in their power. The new shelving in the Reading Room was placed there by them, and if within our limits further space was left, they doubtless would be willing to furnish additional accommodation of the same character for the purchases of the present year.

DEMILT LEGACY.

The sum of \$3,000, bequeathed to the Association by the late Miss ELIZABETH DEMILT, was paid in the latter part of the year by Mr. GEO. T. TRIMBLE, the executor of the estate, into your Treasury. The Board, until a proper investment could be made,

according to the amendment to the Constitution, adopted in January last, ordered it to be placed on deposit in the Merchants' Exchange Bank. The interest on the amount, forms one of the items in the account of the Treasurer.

No opportunity as yet has presented itself of investing the above sum on bond and mortgage, at 7 per cent., at which rate only were we willing to make a permanent investment. It was thought, also, that when the attention of our members was called to the matter this evening, that assistance might be afforded to our successors, by some of them, in obtaining for the Association the highest rate of interest. Upon the use we make of this liberal bequest, will depend, undoubtedly, our future success in obtaining gifts of the like nature. It behooves us, therefore, to show that the bounty of Miss Demilt has been properly bestowed. We recommend, while the income of this fund be used for the best interests of the Association, that it be disbursed in such a manner, as to preserve in the minds of our members the bounty of the testatrix.

C A T A L O G U E .

The new Catalogue is in the hands of our members. Its preparation has necessarily withdrawn the attention of your officers, in a measure, from the other concerns of the Institution. We would express our deep obligation to the Librarian, upon whom devolved, with such assistance as he could from time to time command, the whole labor of compilation, and to whose judgment and appreciation of the wants of the members, are due the improvements upon the former edition. That he has faithfully and ably executed the task he assumed, is the opinion of all, as far as it has been expressed.

In order to insure greater value and usefulness to the work, in the month of May last he consulted with Professor JEWETT, of the Smithsonian Institute, who advised him to proceed in the manner already adopted. By many friends of the Association, valuable hints were given, which proved very useful in the preparation of the Index. We acknowledge our obligations to them. But to none are we more indebted than to Professor W. M. GILLESPIE, of Union College, whose counsel in this por-

tion of the Catalogue was of great value. This gentleman has devoted much attention to this difficult subject.

The work as completed, though not, of course, free from imperfections, many of which arose in the hurry of preparation for the press, will favorably compare with those of kindred Associations.

In a Library increasing in the same proportion annually as does ours, a Catalogue becomes very soon comparatively useless. With a view, therefore, to remedying this evil by the publication of yearly supplements, we have had printed 2000 copies, or twice the number of the former edition.

The publication of the new edition of Chancellor Kent's Course of Reading, was deferred until the completion of the Catalogue, in order that it might embrace as many as possible of the works now in our collection. It will undoubtedly receive early attention from the new Board.

CONCLUSION.

We have concluded our review of the operations of our Institution during the year. It has made, as you have seen, a decided progress. The hopes and wishes of your Board have been realized: may they not have failed to satisfy *your* just demands.

The annual statement of our concerns naturally suggests two considerations. First: the advantages the Association has conferred, and is conferring upon the body of young men among whom it took its rise, and who have nurtured it to its present state of manhood; and, Second: the means of usefulness yet undeveloped, which, when in the course of years they will be brought into full action, will far exceed in their beneficial influences upon our fellow-clerks, all that has hitherto been attempted.

If our review of the doings of the Association in the past year be suggestive of improvements or reforms to those upon whom will shortly devolve the duty of administering your affairs, it will not have been taken in vain. The history of the Association is a history of reform and progress. May your

officers in future years read it aright, and be guided by the wisdom, and avoid the errors of their predecessors!

But few of the members of our Association have had the advantages of a collegiate education. By far the larger portion of them are withdrawn from school, and placed in the counting-room at an age, when education for those destined for other professions just commences. To a body thus composed, what could be more suitable than our noble Library, with its system of Lectures and Classes? Educational deficiencies suggested to its founders the original plan, and gave rise to the improvements that, from time to time, have been ingrafted upon the system.

Is it in vain, therefore, to hope, that in time our Library shall be the largest on the continent; that our Classes shall include the large majority of our members, and pursue the study of various sciences, to which, as yet, their attention has not been directed; and that our Lectures shall be systematized, rest upon a more permanent foundation, and be made the medium of imparting solid instruction to large numbers besides our own members? These, we believe, are not idle dreams, but the conclusions of sane minds, when, looking at its past history, they forecast the destiny of our Institution!

Let us then, fellow-members, while indulging in no rash experiments, nor hazarding in any way the welfare of our Institution, urge it forward to the high destiny to which it is called, and must ultimately attain, before, in the natural course of all things human, it shall commence its decline. May God grant that this decline occur not for centuries to come!

On behalf of the Board,

THOMAS J. BAYAUD, *Pres't.*

January, 1851.